Pol 14 Viet S (1415)

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EXCISE

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ACTION EA-20

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 AID-28 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-08
L-04 NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-12
RSR-01 /129 W
082772

R 151050Z OCT 70
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7003
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
USDEL FRANCE
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMCONSUL DANANG

Saigon 16659 10/15/70

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CJC MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 1/26/87
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 16659

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: LOWER HOUSE ELECTS OFFICERS

b-1
ec

REF: (A) [redacted]
(B) SAIGON 16530 Pol-2 Viet S

1. IN LOWER HOUSE ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN OCTOBER 12-14 THE WELL-ORGANIZED PRO-GVN MAJORITY SWEPT ALMOST ALL POSITIONS AND PUT ITSELF IN A GOOD POSITION TO CONTROL LOWER HOUSE ACTIVITY DURING THE COMING YEAR.

2. AS LAST YEAR, NGUYEN BA LUONG WAS RE-ELECTED CHAIRMAN IN A TIGHT CONTEST WITH NGUYEN BA CAN. FOR THE POSITION OF FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN MODERATE AND RESPECTED OPPOSITIONIST HO VAN MINH NARROWLY DEFEATED NGUYEN QUANG LUYEN, LEADER OF THE HAWKISH INDEPENDENCE BLOC, WHO THEREBY BECAME SECOND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN. ABLE NORTHERNER NGUYEN VAN NHUE WAS CHOSEN SECRETARY GENERAL. (COMPLETE LIST BY AIRGRAM. COMMENT ON LUONG'S RE-ELECTION PROVIDED IN REFTEL B.)

3. LAST YEAR THE PRO-GVN MAJORITY WAS ALSO WELL ORGANIZED.

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BUT SEVERAL OF THE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN WHO WERE CHOSEN FROM THE NOW-DISSOLVED PRO-GVN DEMOCRATIC PROGRESSIVE BLOC, THE MODERATE UNITY BLOC, OR WHO WERE NOT MEMBERS OF BLOCS, DURING THE YEAR DEVELOPED INTO SHARP CRITICS OF THE GVN. THIS YEAR THOSE ELECTED APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN MORE CAREFULLY CHOSEN FOR LOYALTY TO THE GVN. AS USUAL WHEN THE LOWER HOUSE VOTES ON AN IMPORTANT MATTER, THERE WERE NUMEROUS ACCUSATIONS FROM OPPOSITION DEPUTIES AND NEWSMEN THAT THE EXECUTIVE BOUGHT VOTES.

4. OF THE NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, EIGHT ARE NOT MEMBERS OF ANY BLOC, SEVEN BELONG TO THE PRO-THIEU REPUBLICAN BLOC (22 MEMBERS), SEVEN TO THE MAINLY NORTHERN CATHOLIC INDEPENDENCE BLOC (19 MEMBERS), TWO TO THE MODERATE UNITY BLOC (18 MEMBERS) AND ONE (HO VAN MINH) TO THE OPPOSITION SOCIETY BLOC (15 MEMBERS). ASIDE FROM MINH, THE ONLY OPPOSITION DEPUTY ELECTED WAS PHAN XUAN HUY, A SHARP CRITIC OF THE GVN AND CLOSE TO THE AN QUANG BUDDHISTS, WHO IS SECOND COMPTROLLER.
BUNKER

Declassified